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## VANCOUVER METRO July 16, 2012

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## Abby man refuses to Lego his dream

**Abbostford.** Man putting finishing touches on replica Hong Kong skyline

## SUZANNE

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Brick by brick, Robin Sather is building the Hong Kong skyline — entirely out of Lego blocks.

The 47-year-old Abbotsford native is putting the finishing

touches on the replica Monday, which features miniature junks, ferries and freights moored in front of looming skyscrapers like the Bank of China building, HSBC headquarters, and the two International Finance Centres.

Sather — the only Lego certified professional in Canada and one of only 13 in the world — was meticulous with his research, spending more than a month studying the buildings in Hong Kong's Central district with the help of Google maps.

"I've never been to Hong Kong myself," Sather admitted. "But I spent hours online, scrolling through hundreds of photos. I was even able to download floor plans of the Bank of China building, so I know the layout of each floor."

The most difficult skyscraper to construct was the HSBC Building, which Sather said took him more than 60 hours alone to build. In all, Sather and a team of volunteers used 225,000 Lego pieces to create the skyline.

Sather's passion for Lego began when he was a child and continued through high school, college and into adulthood.

"There wasn't a time when I wasn't playing with Lego. It's part of my DNA," he said. In 2004, he quit his IT job and took to building Lego full time.

The Lego display is part of an ongoing exhibition called "In My Life, Pearl of the Orient — Hong Kong" which runs until Sept. 3 at Aberdeen Centre in Richmond.

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